(b) the total amount of soft coke coal imported during the last three years and the amount spent in dollar terms; and

(c) why is technology developed by CFRI not encouraged by CIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Production of soft cock is only assessed. CIL has appointed M/s. Operation Research Group Calcutta to conduct survey on "Consumer Profile and Utilisation of Soft Coke" in West Bengal and Bihar. The study conducted by the above mentioned Operation Group concluded that a high level of satisfaction exists in Bihar and West Bengal with the supply of soft coke.

(b) Import of coal is made under Open General Licence (OGL) and import is not made by the Government or the coal companies. Import of coal including cokes etc. are made by the consumers themselves considering their needs and exercising their own commercial judgement. As per the statistics made available by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta a total quantity 13.68 million tonnes was imported into the country in 1995-96 which includes coals, coke, semi/coke of coal/other cokes of coal/hard coke etc. No separate detail is available regarding import of soft coke.

(c) Coal India Limited have intimated that the technology developed by CFRI is being treated at par with similar technologies for domestic fuel developed the other agencies.

**Seminar on 'coal industry-New Approaches'**

2021. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on 'Coal Industry-New Approaches' was recently organised in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the broad features of the mi

(c) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill to widen the scope of private sector participation in the coal industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thirty six individuals were invited to participate in the seminar. The Secretaries to Government of India in the concerned Ministries, the Chairmen of Coal India Limited, Singareni Collieries Company Limited and Nevveli Lignite Corporation, the Principal Associations of Commerce and Industry and the companies for whom blocks for captive coal mining have been identified. were the participants. The major objective was to elicit views on improving production, marketing, access to investment finance and to suggest measures to reduce procedural bottlenecks.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Bill seeks to amend Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow the Indian companies in the public and private sector to mine coal and lignite without the existing restriction of mining for captive consumption for power generation, iron and steel production and cement production.

**कोयले की खपत तथा उस का उत्पादन**

2022. प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करें कि :

(क) भारत में कोयले की खपत कितनी है तथा उसका उत्पादन कितना है ;

(ख) भारत में कोयले का अनुमानित भण्डार कितना है ;

(ग) प्रतिवर्ष कितने कोयले का आयात किया जाता है; और